

Claims

1. A content usage system, comprising:

a server apparatus operable to transmit usage information to
5 an information terminal, the usage information relating to usage
of content;

the information terminal that includes:

a purchasing unit operable to purchase the usage
information from the server apparatus; and

10 an output unit operable to output the purchased usage
information to a usage apparatus that is to use the content,
and

the usage apparatus that includes:

a content obtaining unit operable to obtain the content;

15 a reception unit operable to receive the usage
information from the information terminal; and

a usage unit operable to use the content in accordance
with the usage information.

20 2. An information terminal that transfers usage information
relating to usage of content, comprising:

a purchasing unit operable to purchase the usage information
from an external server apparatus; and

25 an output unit operable to output the purchased usage
information to a usage apparatus that is to use the content.

3. The information terminal of Claim 2, wherein the purchasing
unit includes:

a usage information reception sub-unit operable to receive the usage information from the server apparatus; and

a proxy settlement request sub-unit operable to transmit settlement request information to a settlement apparatus of a communications enterprise that provides service to the information terminal, the settlement request information showing a request for proxy settlement for the usage information.

4. The information terminal of Claim 3, wherein the purchasing unit further includes:

a not-possible notification reception sub-unit operable to receive proxy settlement not-possible information from the settlement apparatus when the settlement apparatus judges that proxy settlement is not possible.

5. The information terminal of Claim 4, further comprising:

a storage unit that is tamper-resistant, which is a state of being unable to be read or tampered with from outside, and is operable to store electronic money information therein,

wherein the purchasing unit further includes:

an electronic money settlement sub-unit operable to, when the not-possible notification reception unit receives not-possible information, perform settlement for the usage information with use of the electronic money information stored in the storage unit, in place of the processing by the proxy settlement request sub-unit.

6. The information terminal of Claim 2, further comprising:

a storage unit that is tamper-resistant, which is a state of

being unable to be read or tampered with from outside, and is operable to store electronic money information therein,

wherein the purchasing unit performs settlement for the usage information with use of the electronic money information stored in the storage unit.

7. The information terminal of Claim 2, wherein the output unit includes:

a permitted-apparatus storage sub-unit operable to store identification information that identifies an apparatus to which transmission of the usage information is permitted;

an identification information reception sub-unit operable to receive, from the usage apparatus, usage apparatus identification information that identifies the usage apparatus;

a judgment sub-unit operable to judge whether or not the received usage apparatus identification information is stored in the permitted-apparatus storage sub-unit; and

an output sub-unit operable to output the usage information to the usage apparatus when a result of the judgment by the judgment sub-unit is affirmative.

8. The information terminal of Claim 7, wherein the output unit further includes:

a permission reception sub-unit operable to receive, from the usage apparatus, a signal showing that transmission of the usage information is permitted, and

the output sub-unit outputs the usage information to the usage apparatus when the result of the judgment by the judgment sub-unit

is affirmative and the permission reception sub-unit has received the signal.

9. The information terminal of Claim 8, wherein the purchasing unit further includes:

a usage information reception sub-unit operable to receive the usage information from the server apparatus; and

a proxy settlement request sub-unit operable to transmit settlement request information to a settlement apparatus of a communications enterprise that provides service to the information terminal, the settlement request information showing a request for proxy settlement for the usage information.

10. The information terminal of Claim 9, further comprising:

a storage unit that is tamper-resistant, which is a state of being unable to be read or tampered with from outside, and is operable to store electronic money information therein,

wherein the purchasing unit further includes:

a not-possible notification reception sub-unit operable to receive proxy settlement not-possible information from the settlement apparatus when the settlement apparatus judges that proxy settlement is not possible; and

an electronic money settlement sub-unit operable to, when the not-possible notification reception sub-unit receives not-possible information, perform settlement of the usage information with use of the electronic money information stored in the storage unit, in place of the processing by the proxy settlement storage unit.

11. The information terminal of Claim 2, wherein
the usage information includes identification information of
an apparatus to which transmission of the usage information is
permitted, and

5 the output unit further includes:

an identification information reception sub-unit operable to
receive, from the usage apparatus, usage apparatus identification
information that identifies the usage apparatus;

a judgment sub-unit operable to judge whether or not the received
10 usage apparatus identification information matches the
identification information included in the usage information; and

an output sub-unit operable to output the usage information
to the usage apparatus when a result of the judgment by the judgment
sub-unit is affirmative.

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12. A control method for controlling an information terminal that
transfers usage information relating to usage of content, the control
method comprising:

a purchasing step of purchasing the usage information from
20 an external server apparatus; and

an output step of outputting the purchased usage information
to a usage apparatus that is to use the content,

wherein the purchasing step includes:

a usage information reception sub-step of receiving the usage
25 information from the server apparatus; and

a proxy settlement request sub-step of transmitting settlement
request information to a settlement apparatus of a communications
enterprise that provides service to the information terminal, the

settlement request information showing a request for proxy settlement for the usage information.

13. A computer program used in an information terminal that transfers usage information relating to usage of content, the computer program comprising:

a purchasing step of purchasing the usage information from an external server apparatus; and

an output step of outputting the purchased usage information to a usage apparatus that is to use the content,

wherein the purchasing step includes:

a usage information reception sub-step of receiving the usage information from the server apparatus; and

a proxy settlement request sub-step of transmitting settlement request information to a settlement apparatus of a communications enterprise that provides service to the information terminal, the settlement request information showing a request for proxy settlement for the usage information.

14. A computer-readable portable medium on which is recorded a computer program used in an information terminal that transfers usage information relating to usage of content, the computer program comprising:

a purchasing step of purchasing the usage information from an external server apparatus; and

an output step of outputting the purchased usage information to a usage apparatus that is to use the content,

wherein the purchasing step includes:

a usage information reception sub-step of receiving the usage information from the server apparatus; and

a proxy settlement request sub-step of transmitting settlement request information to a settlement apparatus of a communications enterprise that provides service to the information terminal, the settlement request information showing a request for proxy settlement for the usage information.